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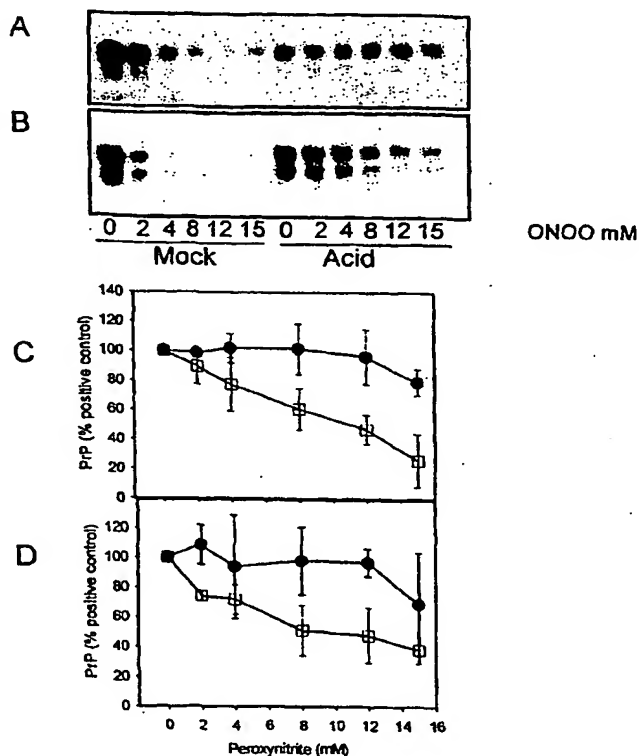
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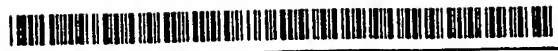
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(54) Title: EPITOPE PROTECTION ASSAY AND METHOD FOR DETECTING PROTEIN CONFORMATIONS



**(57) Abstract:** The invention relates to an epitope protection assay for use in diagnosis, prognosis and therapeutic intervention in diseases, for example, involving polypeptide aggregation, such as prion infections. The methods of the invention first block accessible polypeptide target epitope with a blocking agent. After denaturation of the polypeptide, a detecting agent is used to detect protein with target epitope that was inaccessible during contact with the blocking agent.

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